

# Crossroads

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Vol. 17, No. 1 • January 6, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low



In a real-world  
emergency, call the  
Public Affairs Straight  
Talk Line, **535-3542**.

Don't drink and drive; call  
LADD: 295 57 LADD

### Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

### Emergency:

Base: 911

Off base: 295-571-911

### Weekend

#### Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

##### Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)

Partly Cloudy  
Wind SE 10 mph  
S 10 mph  
High 63F / 17C  
Low 57F / 14C

##### Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)

Partly Cloudy  
Wind S 10 mph  
S 5 mph  
High 63F / 17C  
Low 55F / 13C



## SECAF thanks Airmen during Lajes visit

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley salutes the Portuguese air force honor guard upon his arrival to Lajes Field, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Victor Francisco, Headquarters Azores Air Zone commander, Col. Sérgio Ferreira, Air Base No. 4 commander, and Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, Dec. 18, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)

**By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe**  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley visited Lajes Field Airmen Dec. 18-19 to thank them for their service and countless sacrifices this holiday season.

"During the holidays, please know that all Americans are keeping you and your families in their thoughts and prayers," Secretary Donley said. "We thank you for what you do for our nation and what you do for our Air Force."

The secretary toured several units of the 65th Air Base Wing and spoke with Airmen in all functions and dimensions of the mission here.

During an Airman's Call, hundreds of Airmen warmly welcomed Secretary Donley with loud enthusiastic cheers and applause, which he said reminded him of the reason he'd been looking forward to his visit with the 65th ABW for several months.

As the Secretary addressed the Airmen, he highlighted why Lajes Field, the crossroads of the mid-Atlantic, was such a strategically important installation.

"Since 2003, thousands of aircraft have transited through Lajes in direct support of global missions in the Middle East, in central Asia, and in Africa as well," he said. "Your work enables the movement of our warfighters, aircraft and global communications to combatant commanders supporting the joint coalition and NATO operations, such as Unified Protector, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. And your critical support to these

operations while also promoting regional partnerships is an increasingly strategic important part of our posture going forward."

According to the Secretary, even as the U.S. and its military continue to go through a time of transition, important areas of progress could be seen through a quick review of the past year's milestones -- "the demise of key al-Qaeda leadership, completing the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq, planning for transition in the handover of more security responsibilities to the Afghan security forces and the successful completion of the NATO mission in Libya."

The secretary touched on the current and future challenges of the Air Force.

He mentioned security challenges, which included the fight against al-Qaeda and its global affiliates, as well as other threats, such as nuclear proliferation and cyber terrorism.

He also spoke about financial challenges as the nation works to gain control of the federal budget. This will affect all parts of the federal government, including the Air Force and the Department of Defense, he said.

In efforts to eliminate waste and improve efficiency and effectiveness, the Secretary said, acquisition processes have been improved and the Air Force has already identified \$33 billion across the future years defense plan.

"But we know in the current environment, the

**To read more on "SECAF" see page 3**

**Today's Fight—Airmen and Families—Host Nation Relationship—Future Challenges**

## Meet Maj. Emily Eschbacher, 65th MDG Clinical Psychologist



### What motivated you to join the Air Force?

During graduate school I had the chance to work at an Air Force Mental Health Clinic for my first year field placement. I very much enjoyed the work and helping military members with the difficulties they were facing. At the same time, I learned the military was actively seeking psychologists and felt that joining would allow me to give back to my country for all the opportunities and benefits that were afforded to me by virtue of my citizenship.

### What was your previous assignment?

Buckley AFB, Colo. (people for some reason still think it's an Air Force Reserve base).

### What is your hometown?

Kansas City, Mo.

### How did you commission?

I was matched to the Air Force for residency in Clinical Psychology and was a direct commission into the Air Force Medical Service. I came in as an O-3 based on the number of years of schooling and degree level.

### What's an aspect about being a base psychologist you think would be interesting for people to know?

I do not have a couch in my office, and my job is way more than just providing therapy. I've had the chance to conduct Sanity Boards for court martials, serve as a MAJCOM consultant, attend the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape course and get SERE certified as a psychologist, and more.

### Could you list one or two main highlights of your Air Force career?

My deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq and winning CGO Psychologist of the Year at the Air Force level for 2010 were probably the best Air Force experiences...but getting to attend the Combat Survival course at Fairchild (I'd never been camping prior to that) and becoming a SERE Certified Psychologist ranks up there as well.

### How would you say Lajes differs from other bases you've been assigned?

I never had to deal with cow jams or goat jams until I got here. That's been a new, amusing experience.

### What's one piece of advice you could give to young Airmen?

Take advantage of opportunities as they are presented, whether you asked for them or not. You never know what other experiences might come about as a result, and people always remember the eager individual who was willing to step up and try something new or take on a project.

### Are there any particular quotes you live by?

"When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself."--Tecumseh (Shawnee Chief), and "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'."--Erma Bombeck

### Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I'm training to run a marathon in the spring. If there's anyone else who's also training for a race, interested in running, or would like to get a running group together, just let me know!

## Commander's Action Line

**535-4240**

**65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil**

The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer,

call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Jose Rivera

**Col. Jose Rivera**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

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## Three generations at Lajes Field, featuring the Ourique family

By Eduardo Lima

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Since American armed forces arrived on Terceira Island during World War II, Portuguese local nationals have been working alongside U.S. servicemembers to get the mission done. Senhor Rodrigo Jorge Costa Ourique, an Agualva native, come from three generations of family members who've worked at Lajes Field.

Senhor Ourique began working at the base in June 2009 at the Ocean View snack bar and then held other jobs at the Base Exchange and Outdoor Recreation office, before he moved to his present occupation as a Lajes lodging clerk.

His father, Senhor Agnelo Ourique, a firefighter at the Lajes Fire Department since 1986, started working for the U.S. Air Force at Lajes in

1978. Senhor Rodrigo Ourique's grandfathers also both worked at the base. His paternal grandfather, Joaquim Ourique, worked at the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron from 1982 to 1990, while his maternal grandfather, Francisco Costa, worked at the NCO Club for 43 years before he retired.

"I like my job and enjoy working with my co-workers and supervisors, as well as other people in the building," said Senhor Ourique. "During the summer months we are busier than normal due to the movement of military members, but even with an increased workload I still enjoy working at Lajes lodging," he said.

Ourique loves to work with and repair computers, but now he just wants to give his best to his present job.

Ourique is a very active member in his community. He's part of the marching band of Agualva, where he plays the clarinet and also participates in the dancing groups during the Mardi Gras season, following in the footsteps of his ancestors.

Ourique also plays golf, just like his father, and enjoys going out with friends and playing music. The dedication of people like Ourique,



*Ricardo Ourique's paternal grandfather, Joaquim Ourique, worked at the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron from 1982 to 1990. (Courtesy photo)*



*Ricardo Ourique, the third generation of the Ourique family, at his duty station as a Lajes lodging clerk, Jan., 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)*



*Senhor Agnelo Ourique, a firefighter at the Lajes Fire Department since 1986, receives an award the 65th Civil Engineer commander. (Courtesy photo)*

along with his father and grandfathers, has made Lajes Field a better place to live and work.

### "SECAF" from page 1

efficiencies won't be enough," he said. "In early August, Congress approved and the President signed into law a bipartisan debt deal that translates into about \$450 billion in DoD budget reductions over the next 10 years. The defense reductions are tough, but they're considered achievable as DoD reviews its roles and missions and examines all areas of our budget for savings."

Secretary Donley said Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has expressed confidence that servicemembers can implement these reductions while maintaining the excellence of the U.S. military.

"To get these savings we'll need to accept greater risks in some areas," he said. "We'll need to terminate some lower priority programs, streamline others and continue driving efficiency in all of our operations."

Addressing concerns about how policy, budget and strategy decisions will affect Airmen's lives and the Air Force, Secretary Donley highlighted Secretary Panetta's pledge to fight for servicemembers and their families during these budget challenges.

"Taking care of the men and women doing our national security work is job

number one," he said. "Along with that comes some responsibility to ensure that your pay and benefit packages are sustainable going forward... We're committed to ensuring that the United States continues to have the world's finest Air Force for generations to come."

As the Air Force's leaders focus on strategic priorities and ways to improve key capabilities in the years to come, Secretary Donley promised they would apply best military judgment and fight against reductions that could cause irreparable harm.

"We're shaping the Air Force today to ensure its strength tomorrow," he said. "In the future, the Air Force will be leaner but it will be fully effective. This means our workforce and installations will look and operate differently."

"Evolving strategic environment and national budget constraints are factors that will continue to test us in the years ahead, but whatever the future may bring, you and all the members of our total force are up to this challenge. We are depending on you. Our Air Force and our country need you to be great at what you do every day. You deserve to be proud of the important work of the 65th you personally do here at Lajes because we are certainly proud of you."

Secretary Donley thanked the Airmen once again and wished them a safe and happy holiday season.



# Ferry pilot makes emergency landing at Lajes

By 1st Lt. Mara Title  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The men and women stationed at Lajes Field are used to helping all branches of service; from the control tower directing flights onto the small island of Terceira, to the aircraft maintainers and beddown support Airmen providing assistance, they've mastered the undertaking of restoring, renewing, and reenergizing troops landing here so they can focus on their mission.

But Lajes Field doesn't just take care of military members. Occasionally, there are civilians in need of help, who may also appreciate some small comforts of home. James P. Creamer, a ferry pilot with Globe Aero Limited, Inc., out of Lakeland, Fla., had crossed the Atlantic 44 times and been to 33 different countries during the last three and a half years, before he made an emergency landing at Lajes Field, Dec. 30, 2011. He was delivering one of eight Piper PA-44 Seminoles—an American twin-engined light aircraft—to China, when he suddenly felt fatigued and lightheaded.

"I didn't feel I could fly the additional three hours to Santa Maria where we normally land," said Creamer.

Bill Straw, a former Air Force C-130 Hercules pilot, was flying another Seminole with him, and suggested early on he turn off the heater. But Creamer didn't notice it was on until later into the flight, at which point he felt quite sick.

Unfortunately for these two pilots, this was just one of many hurdles they'd already experienced on their journey. Creamer, in fact, started flying with a different pilot altogether. After the first day there were alternator problems with both planes, and they were delayed five days outside a Piper repair station in Maine. Not long afterward in St. John's Newfoundland, the other pilot received a call his mother was ill, and Creamer had to wait for someone new who was willing to fly during Christmas. Straw came to the rescue, but he still needed to get a Chinese visa, which took a week to process! Finally, on Dec. 30, after weather delays kept Creamer and Straw from venturing further, they were on their way to Santa Maria when Creamer fell ill.

"I hadn't dealt with the military other than with some of the ferries in the Middle East, but nothing else," said Creamer.

To his surprise, after landing he was taxied off the runway and evaluated. Fire rescue and emergency crews were standing by to assist. With symptoms of fatigue, and lightheadedness, they suspected it might be carbon monoxide poisoning.

"I'd never had a medical emergency like that before," said Creamer. But despite his discomfort, he said he "felt very safe."

According to Creamer, ferry pilots travel around the world continuously, and because it's such a high demanding job, there are approximately only 15 full-timers in the U.S. They're expected to have adequate knowledge of multiple locations around the world,



The two Piper PA-44 Seminoles on James Creamer's journey from Lakeland, Fla. to China sit in St. John's, Newfoundland, Dec., 2011. (Courtesy photo)

specifically in regard to different customs and cultures. Creamer knows a handful of languages, and is comfortable flying many types of aircraft. But landing at Lajes Field was a particular comfort to him during this unusual course of events.

"It made me feel a lot better, especially the tower—it was nice to hear an American voice," he said.

But he noted it wasn't just the Americans who made his situation better.

"It was nice to be taken care of, and since getting here, the people at the airport, and the Portuguese officials here on base were very nice; they've made it very easy," he said.

Now James P. Creamer can be added to the list of those who've been helped by the men and women at Lajes Field. He has just one piece of advice for adventure seekers and pilots alike: "Never hesitate in an emergency, and always listen to your inner voice," although the voice he was ultimately assured by was familiarly American, in the Lajes Field control tower.

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Thomas V. Bui  
**Rank:** Airman 1st Class  
**Unit:** 65th MDG/SGOD  
**Hometown:** Boston, Mass.  
**Duty Title:** Dental Assistant  
**Accomplishments:** Airman 1st Class Bui arrived to the Lajes Field in April 2011, from Lackland AFB, Texas in San Antonio. Since arriving, Airman Bui has assisted the dental clinic providers in all phases of dentistry.

He has worked in the records and reception area and the instrument processing center, which is responsible for the cleaning and sterilization of all instruments utilized in the Medical Group. He is on a 24-month accompanied tour and was recently selected as the 65th Medical Group Airman of the Quarter.



**Name:** Sra Carla M. Oliveira  
**Rank:** LGS-05  
**Unit:** 65th MDG/SGOD  
**Hometown:** Angra do Heroísmo, Azores  
**Duty Title:** Medical Support Assistant  
**Accomplishments:** Sra Carla Oliveira provides and maintains customer service to patients at the Dental Clinic. Sra Oliveira manages the schedules of five providers and performs a variety of administrative and clerical functions. She maintains confidential dental records, receives and reviews documents for completeness and advises patients on available services.





# "6-5...IN THE FIGHT!"

*Feature*



Secretary of the Air Force, Michael B. Donley, shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Bethany West, 65th Contracting Flight, during a Warrior Welcome and Departure ceremony at Lajes Field, Azores, Dec. 19, 2011. The Secretary attended the ceremony for Lajes Airmen who have returned from deployments or who are on their way downrange. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(Left) Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presents Staff Sgt. William Crenshaw with his certificate after STEP promoting him to technical sergeant on Dec. 22, 2011. (Right) Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms was quoted as saying, "The STEP program is used to promote those exceptional performers—today, the Air Force clearly got it right." (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Spouses from the 65th Logistical Readiness Squadron and the 65th Contracting Flight hosted a combined Single Unaccompanied Airman Cookie Drive, Dec. 9, 2011. Every single unaccompanied Airman in 65th LRS and 65th CONF received cookies and baked goods, courtesy of the spouses group. (Courtesy photo)



Team Lajes members closed out the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign drive with a breakfast at the base chapel annex, Dec. 15, 2011. Lajes Field members pledged \$73,890, making it the highest participation rate (86.1 percent) in United States Air Forces in Europe, and United States European and Africa Commands. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Congratulations to Team Lajes' Airmen who graduated from the Kisling NCO Academy, Class 2012-1, Dec. 15, 2011. Members completed 220 academic hours during the six-week course, which covered leadership, communication and profession of arms. Graduates include (far left) Master Sgt. Mike Tryner, (fifth from left) Tech. Sgts. Charles Drodgy, Alan Robinson, Mack Ream, and (front center) Jason Coleman. (Courtesy Photo)



## Mark your calendar

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR:

professional development seminars are scheduled Jan. 9 and 23 (Conflict Resolution in the Workplace) at the Education Center Auditorium in Building T-146. For more information, contact SMSgt David Harvatin at 535-6197 or david.harvatin@lajes.af.mil.

### ANNUAL AWARDS: 4th Quarterly Awards

Breakfast, Jan. 11. It's that time of the last season (4th Quarterly Awards) for 2011 to recognize our Outstanding Airmen! Come out and show your support on Jan. 11, 2012, at the TORC breakfast buffet! RSVP & contact your unit POC to confirm and pay for seats. For additional questions, please contact MSgt Jeremy Alvarez, 535-4344, for additional questions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** For maximum coverage of base-wide activities, events, and important information, send all advertisement requests to lajes.news@lajes.af.mil. This e-mail address includes members from the 65th Force Support Squadron marketing department, AFN, and the Public Affairs office. We want to make sure you get the word out!

**MID-DAY ALL REQUEST SHOW:** Be sure to tune into Island 96.1 on your radio to hear all of your favorite hits. Don't forget you can submit your request for any songs you want to hear during the Mid-day show from noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact AFN at DSN 535-3121, cell phone at 295-573-121, or via office communicator at Rodrick.Aust.

**FESTAS DA PRAIA 2012'S POSTER CONTEST:** The Mayor of Praia da Vitória has invited the Lajes Field community to participate in the Festas da Praia 2012's poster contest, using the festival's theme, "The Carnival." If you are interested in creating a graphic design for this event, please send submissions or any questions to festasdapraia2012@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 15. For rules, regulations, and awards, please contact 65 ABW/PA at 535-6161.



## Feature

### Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** What time does the plane leave?

**PORTUGUESE:** A que horas parte o avião?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Ah kay orash part-uh ay-vee-ohm?

### At the Movies



**7 p.m. Saturday** - 50/50 (R), 99 minutes.

**4 p.m. Sunday** - Jack and Jill (PG), 93 minutes.

Movie times and schedule are subject to change.  
Call 535-4100 for the latest update.



### The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) is offering free online training events through January, 2012.

The trainings include:

**11 Jan** – Live Resume Assessment

**18 Jan** – How to Lock that Job Resume Techniques that Work for You

**25 Jan** – Skill Training: Social Media

To find out how to register for the course as well as more information about MSCCN, please contact the **Airman and Family Readiness Center at 535-4138**.

## ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores.

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



### Who discovered the Azores and how long has the archipelago been inhabited by the Portuguese?



Mount Pico in front of the island's green landscape, emblematic of the archipelago of the Azores.

The discovery of the Azores, according to Genoese maps of the 14th century, seems to have taken place between 1317 and 1339 by Portuguese and Genoese navigators in the service of the Portuguese kingdom.

This discovery seems, however, to have remained overlooked up to almost a century when the Portuguese navigator Diogo de Silves later claimed the discovery of the islands around 1427. The name Azores (Açores in Portuguese) probably comes from the Portuguese word "Açor" (goshawk), a big and powerful hawk that was sighted in great numbers by the navigators who discovered the archipelago. Colonization of the island of Santa Maria, the first to be discovered, began in 1439 and was followed by the colonization of the other islands.

The background of the first inhabitants is varied. While most came from the Portuguese mainland, others are descendants of the Flemish from Flanders who settled mainly on Terceira, Faial and Pico and from Brittany or Bretagne, a former province of northwest France, who came to the island of São Miguel.

Because of their important strategic location, the Azorean islands quickly became important as a port call for ships sailing the Atlantic Ocean, between Europe, Africa, India and the Americas. Christopher Columbus stopped at the Island of Santa Maria in 1493 when returning from his maiden voyage to America.